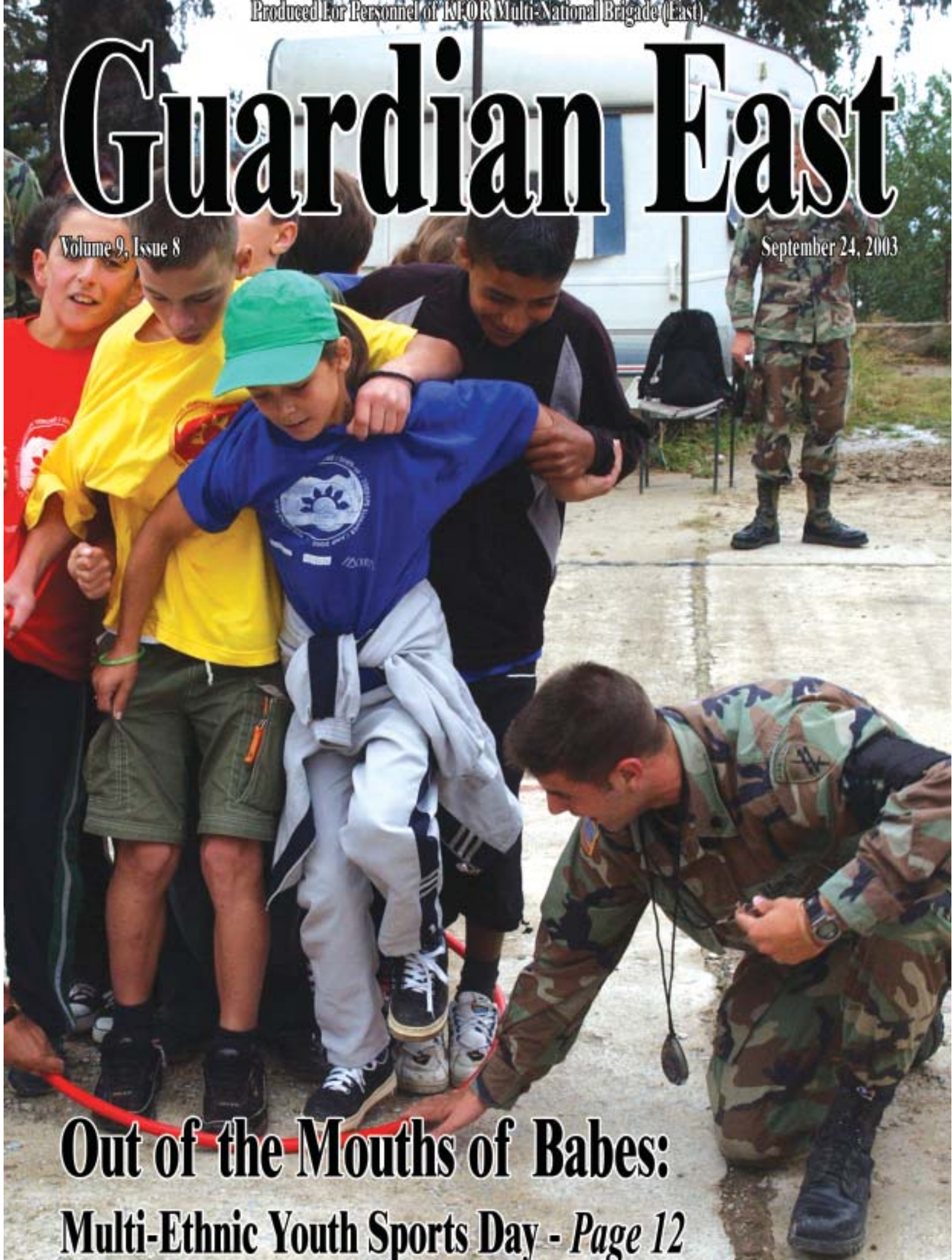


# Guardian East

Volume 9, Issue 8

September 24, 2003



**Out of the Mouths of Babes:**  
**Multi-Ethnic Youth Sports Day - Page 12**



# Message to the troops



**By Command Sgt. Maj.  
Kenneth Jacoby**

What is the Threat? We as soldiers are constantly alert to the environment in which we operate. We do risk management, threat analysis, and operational planning based upon this question. What is the threat?

The threat we of KFOR 5A face is complacency. We have been on duty in Kosovo for several months and we have done well in maintaining a safe and secure environment for the citizens of this land. This is our mission, simply stated, that's why we are here. However, we must insure that while we make Kosovo safe for its citizens, Kosovo is also a safe place for us.

That's where the threat of complacency comes in. Nothing bad has happened so we become mired in routine and forget about the dangers we face. Being a soldier, particularly a deployed soldier, is dangerous business and we must never forget it.

Take time each day to keep yourself, your peers, your soldiers, and all those around you safe. Each day

must include positive action on your part to insure a safe environment for the soldiers of KFOR 5A.

These actions include safe driving techniques, which start with proper PMCS of the vehicle, observing speed limits on the roads of Kosovo, defensive driving techniques, and observing traffic laws. In case you haven't noticed, driving here is substantially different than driving at home. Don't become complacent just because you have been driving here and nothing has happened to you thus far. We have had several minor vehicle accidents, most of which could have been prevented with more attention by the driver or assistant driver. Each time you drive, be alert to your surroundings and never assume the other guy is paying attention.

The next battle in your war against complacency should be weapons' safety. We all carry weapons and live ammunition each day. We cannot afford to take this for granted. Even though we are highly trained soldiers, the fact is we need to be diligent in the methods we use to clear and handle our weapons. Our



**Command Sgt. Maj.  
Kenneth Jacoby**

weapons procedures are both detailed and concise and we need to follow these procedures each and every day. There is no such thing as an accidental discharge, these are negligent discharges and they are preventable. Know your weapon and treat it with respect.

Each day should begin with a few moments to reflect on how to safely and successfully complete your assignment. Do not allow yourself to slip into a routine and begin to take things for granted. When complacency sets in, accidents happen and the threat has won the battle. **STAY ALERT – STAY ALIVE!**

## SEE THE PHOTO OF THE DAY

[www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil](http://www.mnbe.hqusareur.army.mil)

Submissions or story ideas related to the MNB(E) mission are encouraged. Send regular mail to MNB(E) PAO, Attn: Editor, Camp Bondsteel, APO AE 09340; send e-mail to [guardianeast@bondsteel2.aur.army.mil](mailto:guardianeast@bondsteel2.aur.army.mil).

**COVER:** Spc. Jeffrey Markle, civil affairs specialist with the 415th Civil Affairs Battalion, helps a team finish the hula hoop race Aug. 27, at the multi-ethnic youth sports day. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold.

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## Guardian East

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### About Guardian East

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**Spc. Jennifer Sitler stands at attention during the Sept. 11 Memorial Service at the North Chapel on Camp Bondsteel. Photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap.**

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**Polish and Ukrainian soldiers cheer on their teammates during the basketball shoot-out portion of the Iron Competition Aug. 29 at Camp Bondsteel. POLUKRBAT teams took first and second place in the contest. Photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap.**

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**Staff Sgt. Patrick J. Hahnlen (left) simulates being attacked by Pvt. Lars K. Rosnes, provoking an attack from "Cain", a military working dog during a bite work training event at Camp Monteith. Photo by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson.**

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# We Will Remember: Soldiers Commemorate 9-11

Story and photos by Sgt. Heidi Schaap

Soldiers gathered at Camp Bondsteel's North Chapel Sept. 11 to grieve, share, sing and pray as they remembered the tragic terrorist attacks on America which took place two years ago.

The memorial service began with a moving photographic presentation of the images that Americans most often associate with Sept. 11, 2001 and the few days after.

The colors were then posted, and all the soldiers attending joined in to sing the national anthem.

**"No time can wipe your tears.  
You can't weep in centuries what  
you've lost in one day."**

**Adnan Kercagu**

Multi-National Brigade (East) Commander Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck, Jr. reflected on the day's importance.

"Let us remember this day two years ago," Beck said. "Not because we were struck by terror, but because out of the flames came strength and might that was laying dormant. Americans all over the world, united as one; one nation, one culture, one society, whose only crime is that we love freedom."

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Mary Chipman and Col. James Lockemy shared teary-eyed reflections on the attack, and a Kosovar civilian, Adnan Kercagu shared original poetry he dedicated



**Spc. Eric Hamberger holds the National Colors during a Sept. 11 Memorial Service at the North Chapel at Camp Bondsteel.**

to those who lost their lives that fateful September day.

"No future can erase the past," Kercagu quoted from his piece, "Time and Memory." "No time can wipe your tears. You can't weep in centuries what you've lost in one day."

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bert Kozen provided comfort to attendees with a Scripture reading from the 91<sup>st</sup> Psalm.

"I will say to the LORD, 'My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!'" read Kozen... "You will not be afraid of the terror by night, or of the arrow that flies by day... A thousand may fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not approach you."

After singing "America the Beautiful," taps was played and the colors were retired, while Sgt. Rachel Brown performed "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes.

"I still have more questions than answers," said Lockemy, quoting Marine Aviator Terry Morrin in a letter written following Sept. 11. "I love that our country has come together. I'm sorry that it took this to do it. Thanks to all of you who contributed your sweat on that day, to all of you who gave blood, to all who responded to relief drives, to all those who called....to ask after our welfare. Thanks for caring, hug the ones you love. Be there for each other and God Bless America."



**Sgt. Rachel Brown concludes a Sept. 11 Memorial Service at the North Chapel at Camp Bondsteel with the playing of "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes, while Chap. (Lt. Col.) Bert Kozen stands by.**

# The Iron Challenge

Story and photos by  
Sgt. Heidi Schaap

Fourteen teams came together Aug. 29 to battle it out in an Iron Challenge at the South Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Complex on Camp Bondsteel. Modeled after the Strong Man Competition, the Iron Challenge proved to be a very challenging event indeed, created so soldiers could have some fun while working as a team.

**“In order to have a little fun we threw in a few crazy tasks...”**

Rayvaun “Smitty” Smith

The teams competed in four main events, including a tire toss with “Rambo” shooting (using water guns), a weighted mule pull with a basketball shoot-out, a bench press with a “farmers relay,” and a weighted run relay.



**Female soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2/104th Aviation Battalion and the 24th Medical Company pull a mule full of sand bags at the Iron Competition Aug. 30.**



**U.S. soldiers flip a tractor tire at the Iron Competition Aug. 29.**



**A soldier at the Iron Competition at the Southtown Morale, Welfare and Recreation Complex at Camp Bondsteel knocks over sand filled water bottles with his squirt gun while MWR Lead Programmer Rayvaun “Smitty” Smith looks on.**

“In order to have a little fun we threw in a few crazy tasks like tossing giant tires, diving into a kiddie pool & low crawling through the sand to shoot down water bottles,” said Rayvaun “Smitty” Smith, MWR lead programmer. “Although some of the soldiers were extremely sore the next day, they all had a great time.”

Though it was a very tough battle for the top spot, the 1<sup>st</sup> place went to Team Polish Ukrainian Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to Team “Men of Iron,” and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place went to Team Paxton. An honorable mention also went to Team “Tater Puffs,” the only all-female team to compete.

“With 15 volunteers helping out MWR, the event was a huge success,” Smith concluded. “Plans are already being made for the next Iron Challenge in November, and anyone with (programming) ideas should stop by.”



# Training Bites:

## *Maintaining K-9 Warrior Spirit*

Story and photos by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson

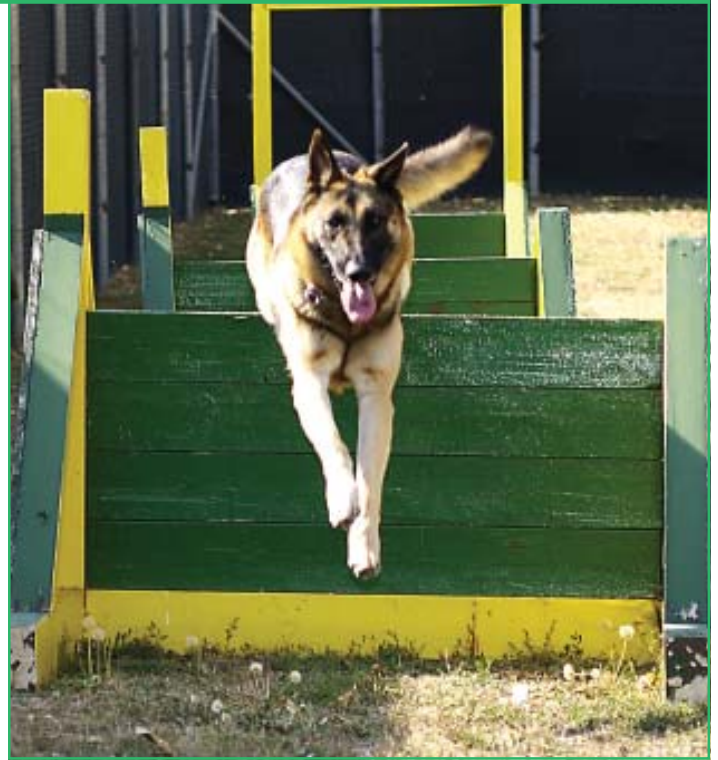
CAMP MONTEITH, Kosovo – From screening the daily mail to working cordon and search missions in the sector, the canine soldiers of Multi-National Brigade (East) play a vital role in helping to maintain a safe and secure environment in Kosovo.

Like all other soldiers, the canine compatriots must endure the rigors of maintaining the highest level of mission readiness. This is despite the massive strides that have been taken in creating and maintaining a culturally diverse and peaceful situation here. The responsibility for this training ultimately falls to each dog's handler.

"We are training to reinforce and maintain the dog's warrior spirit," explained Handler, Staff Sgt. Patrick J. Hahnlen of the 1137<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company's K-9 section.

Hahnlen, an Annville, Pa., native, said each dog is required to have a minimum of four hours of training each week. Training opportunities include bite, obedience, and fitness events. According to Hahnlen, obedience training fits into both fitness, and bite training exercises.

Hahnlen and his four-legged partner, "Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Cain" conducted bite work training August 26 on Camp



**Military Police dog, "Cain" jumps a hurdle at an obstacle course at Camp Monteith.**

**"We are training to...maintain the dog's warrior spirit."**

**Staff Sgt. Patrick J. Hahnlen**



**Cain brings Norwegian Medic, Pvt. Lars K. Rosnes down during bite training at Camp Monteith's soccer field August 26.**

Monteith's soccer field. This was done with the support of Sgt. Edward Brinkman, a medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-111<sup>th</sup> Infantry and some brave Norwegian soldiers, stationed temporarily at Camp Monteith. The courageous troops volunteered to serve as models Cain could attack on command.

Brinkman and Norwegian Medic, Pvt. Lars K. Rosnes, of the Norwegian Task Force Medical Platoon placed themselves in a hot, heavy, and uncomfortable, yet equally reassuring and safe, bite suit. They allowed Cain the opportunity to run through several scenarios where he would both attack and refrain from attacking a detainee.

"It was fun, seeing how the dogs work and how obedient they are," said Brinkman. "I also noticed the confidence the handler has in his dog."

Rosnes said the training was an exciting experience for him to go through while visiting the camp.

"It was quite a rush; running and you see the dog running after you. The next thing you know, you're on the ground and the dog is all over you." Rosnes panted.

Norwegian Medic, and fellow platoon member, Pvt. Haakon Willumsen expressed the same thought of being "attacked" by the German shepherd when he placed a "bite arm" over his own arm.



**Left: Military Police-man, Staff Sgt. Patrick J. Hahnlen (left) simulates being attacked by Norwegian Medic, Pvt. Lars K. Rosnes, provoking an attack from "Cain", a military working dog during a bite work training event at Camp Monteith.**

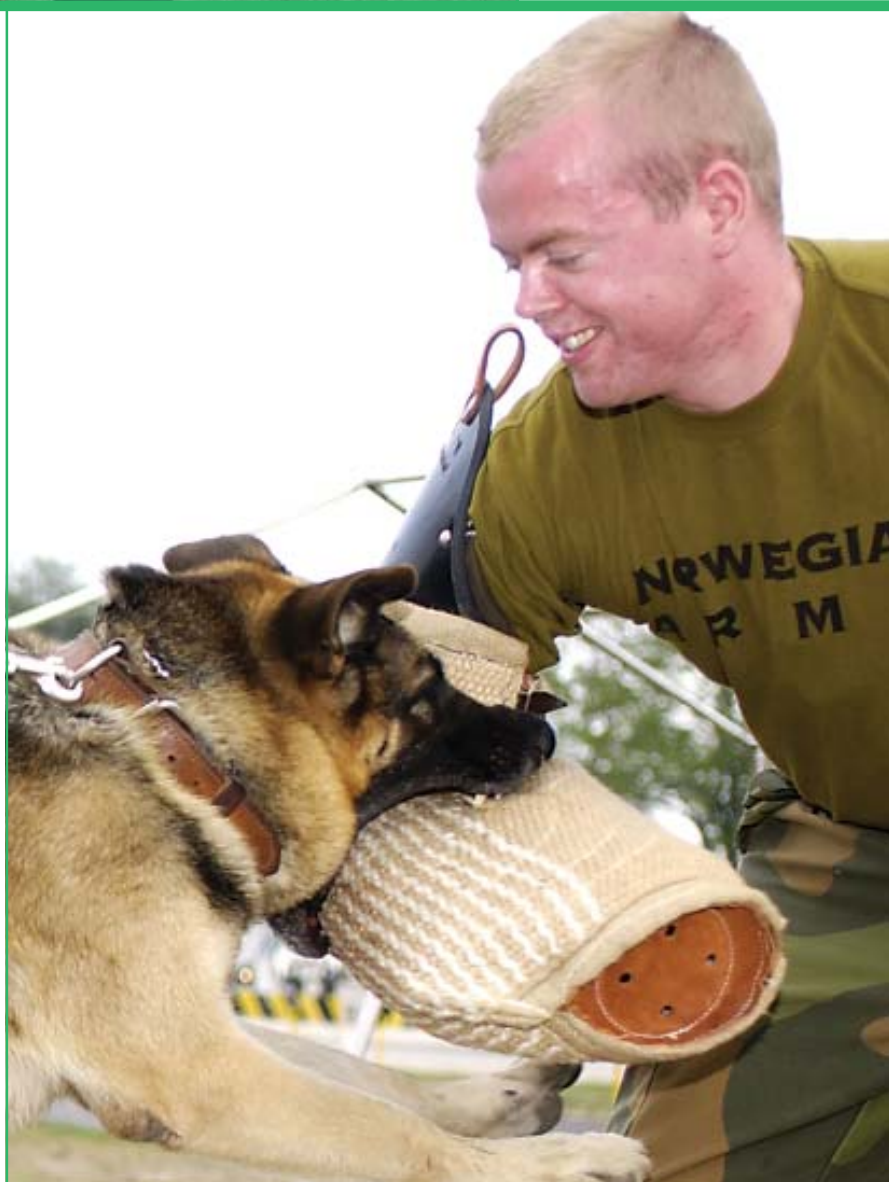
**Below: Pvt. Haakon Willumsen, with his arm protected from Cain's large teeth, allows the German shepherd to attack his right arm on Camp Monteith's soccer field.**

Willumsen expressed, "You could feel the dog's breath through the (bite arm)!"

Camp Monteith also has an obstacle course set up for these dogs of war and peace. The course consists of six obstacles for the canine troops to negotiate. Included in the course, are three adjustable hurdles ranging from one to three feet in height, a long tube for the dogs to crawl through, an A-frame they must scale, and stairs over which they must maneuver. The course also challenges the dogs by forcing them to leap through simulated open windows and traverse a nine-inch wide dog walk that measures fifteen feet in length and is three feet high. The course is designed to maintain each four-legged soldier's agility and obedience.

The dogs may be commanded to attack in order to capture a fleeing suspect, to protect places, equipment, and information the commander deems vital to national security. They may also attack to prevent or to respond to an event that could put a human life or limb in danger. According to Hahnlen, there are strict rules, regulations and guidelines governing the use of the animals.

Despite the aggressive nature of the training he must complete, Cain maintains the typical virtues of a well cared for German shepherd. He is loving and friendly, playful and loyal. Yet, when Hahnlen gives the command for this 6 1/2 year old dog to attack, there is no doubt that Cain is in control of the situation.







**Left and Right:** POLUKRBAT soldiers march by Lt. Col Wojciech Marchwica, Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck Jr., and Lt. Col. Piotr Sadowski during the Transfer of Authority ceremony Sep. 10.

**Far Right:** POLUKRBAT soldiers salute the Polish flag as it rises to the top of the flag pole during the Transfer of Authority ceremony Sep. 10.

# The Setting of a Mission, The

**"I have been impressed by your professionalism, discipline and day-to-day performance. You have executed this mission with military precision."**

Lt. Col. Wojciech Marchwica



Lt. Col. Wojciech Marchwica delivers his speech during the Transfer of Authority ceremony Sep. 10.

Story and photos by Spc. Christina E. Witten

CAMP WHITE EAGLE, Kosovo - The cool, damp September morning did not accurately portray the excitement inside the hearts of Polish-Ukrainian Battalion soldiers during the transfer of authority ceremony Sep. 10.

One rotation of soldiers led by Lt. Col. Wojciech Marchwica prepared to return home with a mission complete, while another rotation led by Lt. Col. Piotr Sadowski prepared for a new mission.

Lt. Col. Sadowski explained, "For us soldiers who arrived several days ago, our service as a part of the Multi-National Brigade (East) is very important. Despite the stable situation in Kosovo, incidents indicate that international forces are needed in order to strengthen peace in the Balkans. On behalf of the officers and soldiers from the new rotation, I would like to assure you that we will do our best to fulfill all our tasks at a high level."

The rotation of redeploying POLUKRBAT soldiers spent 13 months conducting missions in Kosovo and accomplished much during this time period.

Lt. Col. Marchwica elaborated, "The 13 months that have passed since we arrived in Kosovo were a hard-working period for the battalion and that has had a huge influence on the progress of Kosovo affairs. During the mission in Kosovo, the battalion carried out 19,980 patrols, over 500 joint patrols with UNMIK Police, Border Police, KPS and U.S. Military Police, 198 convoys and 47 cordon and search operations."

Numerous weapons and explosives were found and many criminals were detained due to POLUKRBAT operations in Kosovo, according to Lt. Col. Marchwica. The POLUKRBAT also successfully participated in MEDCAPs and athletic competitions with allied forces.

Lt. Col. Marchwica complemented his soldiers for a job well done by saying, "Your steadfast and even-handed approach has been the key to our success. I personally have witnessed you conduct operations in this theatre, and I have





# Dawning of a New Mission

been impressed by your professionalism, discipline and day-to-day performance. You have executed this mission with military precision."

Lt. Col. Marchwica noted his appreciation for allied forces as well.

"The great experience for us was serving side by side with our allies from KFOR and MNB(E)," Lt. Col. Marchwica explained. "I was always sure I could count on the complete support of both commands. On behalf of all POLUKRBAT soldiers, and myself, I would like to thank [Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck Jr., MNB(E) commanding general] for [his] daily concern for POLUKRBAT matters."

In closing, Lt. Col. Marchwica left Lt. Col. Sadowski with some hopeful words and advice.

"Lt. Col. Sadowski, I wish you a good start with the new contingent. Continue in building the future of Kosovo together with other nations and maintain and improve peace,



**Lt. Col. Piotr Sadowski congratulates Lt. Col. Wojciech Marchwica during the Transfer of Authority ceremony Sep. 10.**

**Lt. Col. Wojciech Marchwica, Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck Jr., and Lt. Col. Piotr Sadowski salute POLUKRBAT troops as they march by during the Transfer of Authority ceremony Sep. 10.**



security and safety for all ethnicities and minorities."

Beck also spoke to POLUKRBAT soldiers during the ceremony, stating his appreciation for their efforts and role in Kosovo's future.

The POLUKRBAT is comprised of Polish, Ukrainian and Lithuanian soldiers. Because of this, the battalion has a unique attribute of international cooperation to share with the people of Kosovo.

Lt. Col. Sadowski explained, "As an international battalion, we can show that many countries with different cultures, traditions and national heritage are able to cooperate together for international peace."

Distinguished guests at the ceremony were Danuta Mozdzenska-Mrozek, Kosovo Social Ministry senior advisor, Col. Grzeca, Serbia and Montenegro Polish Embassy military attaché, Mariusz Pindel, Polish Consul General in FYROM, and Dariusz Krawczyk, Polish Special Police Unit commander.

FALCON  
ROUTE RAT  
KOSOVO  
SEAHUT  
POLUKRBAT  
PRISTINA  
APACHE  
MONTEITH  
ROUTE STAG  
PEACEKEEPER  
PATROL  
UNMIK  
FERIZAJ  
BRADLEY  
BONDSTEEL  
ROUTE HAWK  
BALKANS  
HUMVEE  
KFOR  
BLACKHAWK

L S T V Z D R Y G T F O I  
R E P E E K E C A E P M O  
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O B C M P H U E T N O L U  
V H I T A E F L O Z R Q H  
E C K W A H K C A L B V B  
K H K H T I E T N O M Q H

## Miss Military: *Wearing the Gore-Tex and PT Jacket*

Dear Miss Military,

You and I pride ourselves on our STRAC military appearance. Unfortunately it doesn't appear that everyone else feels the same. I have seen soldiers walking around wearing the IPFT jacket with civilian clothes and wearing the Army Goretex jacket with civilian clothes. Miss Military, what is the army regulation that determines the wear of military clothes with civilian clothes? It is my undying hope that everyone will eventually wear their Army uniform with pride and within regulation.

Signed,

**Constantly**

Constantly Striving for Excellence

Dear Constant Soldier,

Miss Military hears your cry and feels your pain. There has indeed been some concern over the mixing of Army uniforms with civilian clothes. First off, let me applaud your effort at maintaining a military appearance at all times. In these times of dressing down, I understand how some people can simply lose all military bearing. We know, Gentle Warrior, the Army is a uniformed service where discipline is judged, in part, by the manner in which a soldier wears a prescribed uniform, as well as by the individual's personal appearance. Therefore, a neat and well groomed appearance by all soldiers is fundamental to the Army and contributes to building the pride and esprit essential to an effective military force. So to answer your question, Miss Military turned to Army Regulation 670-1 Wear and Appearance of the Army Uniform. Keep in mind at all times paragraph 1-9 states, "Soldiers will keep uniforms buttoned, zipped, and snapped." Having said that, Miss Military must advise you that AR 670-1 does not prohibit the wear of the IPFU jacket or the Gore-Tex jacket with civilian clothes. Post policy dictates that. HOWEVER, according to Task Force Command Sergeant Major CSM Jacoby, policy in MNB(E) NEITHER allows the wear of the Gore-Tex jacket with civilian clothes NOR to mix any of the IPF uniform with civilian clothes. Also, please be aware soldiers are prohibited from wearing the Gore-Tex jacket with the IPFU. Miss Military hopes this clears up the confusion.

As always, Semper Gumby,

**MissMilitary**

Miss Military



# Sharing a Message of Tolerance



Ramadan Rexhepi 9th grade students pose for a picture with HHC soldiers Sept. 9.

## Story and photos by Spc. Christina E. Witten

SOJEVA, Kosovo – Smiling faces and welcoming expressions greeted the soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company 56<sup>th</sup> Brigade, Sept. 9, as their vehicles pulled into the parking lot of Ramadan Rexhepi Elementary School.

**“We are walking around with weapons, and I just want them to know that we’re here as friends.”**

**Spc. Sean Duffy**

The playground was packed with lively children who recognized immediately the convoy of soldiers that visit weekly. For the past four years the children who attend Ramadan Rexhepi have been visited by soldiers of the HHC’s from Camp Bondsteel. They often brought needed clothing or school supplies. Sometimes they simply bring caring hearts and a message of tolerance.

“I enjoyed seeing the kids,” stated Staff Sgt. Luis Torres, HHC billeting non-commissioned officer. “In the

United States, I work with kids, so I can relate to this. I love the school, and I love kids because I have two of my own.”

Spc. Sean Duffy, HHC training NCO, also enjoys interacting with the children, but says he also hopes to convey a message of trust to the children.

“I really want to put out a friendly aura towards children so they know they can cooperate with U.S. soldiers and not be afraid of them,” Duffy explained. “We are walking around with weapons, and I just want them to know that we’re here as friends.”

HHC soldiers began the day by first meeting with Ramadan Rexhepi director, Ekrem Hasani. Soldiers were welcomed with smiles from both students and faculty as they entered the school. They then warmed up with a cup of hot tea in Hasani’s office.

Following the meeting, HHC soldiers delivered the donated clothing. Working as a team, and assisted by a couple of helpful students, they were able to finish quickly. Hasani will distribute the donations as needs develop.

The next undertaking of HHC soldiers was to give the 9<sup>th</sup> grade class a cultural lesson about the United States and the English language. Capt. Garry L. Hahn, HHC commandant, led the instruction by opening the forum up for questions from students.

“The goal today was to interact with the school,” Hahn

**See HHC on Page 19**



**Fitore and teammates pull with joy during the tug-of-war at the sports camp Aug 27.**



**A dry sports day participant begins the sponge relay race for her team.**



**The first place team they go to receive th the youth sports day**

# Out of the Mouth of Babes

**Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Ken Petzold**

BREZOVICA, Kosovo – The beauty of cloud-nestled mountain peaks and the serenity of the mountain ski resort Aug. 27, made for a calm and relaxing site. However, more than



**Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck Jr. shakes hands with a medal recipient, at the end of the Aug 27, multi-ethnic youth sports day.**

50 people from five ethnic groups yelling, throwing things and having frequent confrontations with KFOR and Kosovo Police Service personnel soon replaced this serenity. But wait – this was done through laughing, hugging and inspiring peace and understanding. All the activities and attitudes had everything to do with cooperation and fun and nothing to do with prejudice or political agendas.

This ski resort was the backdrop for a KPS, KFOR and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe sponsored multi-ethnic youth sports day. The joy from these children, ranging in age from 10 to 15, filled the hearts of these sponsors. Underprivileged children from Albanian, Serbian, Ashkali, Roma and Gorani communities of Urosevac, Kacanik and Strpce municipalities were invited to a weeklong youth camp.

"This camp is absolutely fantastic. The children mixed together almost immediately," said Alexandra Simpson, democratization officer for OSCE in the Strpce municipality and coordinator for the weeklong youth camp.

"Three boys from different ethnicities were placed as roommates. They are such close friends now, they



**Spc Jonathan Anderstrom and his multi-ethnic "Tigers" get primed up for the days competition**

are now inseparable," Simpson continued.

The boys soon went their different ways but only for the purpose of being a member of one of the six teams participating in the eight games played.

The day began with incredible amounts of energy and enthusiasm in the tug-of-war. Tiny boys and girls growled like fierce bears as they used every ounce of their strength to try to defeat the growlers at the other end of the rope. Yet they had more help available than just their little muscles.





celebrate as  
their medals for

Fitore runs to the marble pass after  
finishing the dizzy-bat race at the  
multi-ethnic sports day.

Maj. Greg Neverson(left) , cheers on Kosovar  
children of five ethnic groups in a tug-of-war  
during a multi-ethnic sports day.

Nearby, the KPS and KFOR team coaches strained their vocal chords attempting to pull the rope, as if possible, with their voices. Maj. Gregory Neverson, 415<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion team one chief, not only used his voice but also strained to pull an imaginary rope alongside his team in spurring them on to victory.

Fitore, which is translated Victoria, was one of the most animated children during the day's activities. Her name was fitting, as she and her partner were victorious in the water balloon toss contest.

"This is lots of fun," said the smiling 10-year-old Fitore.

Throughout the day, children competed with all they had in relay and water-related races. While winning may be everything to some, this was not evident by the smiles seen and the "oogie, oogie, oogie's" cheerfully shouted by the children and coaches alike, regardless of who came in first.

"Hopefully, the KFOR sports day planted seeds of ethnic cooperation that will be the hallmark of their generation," said Staff Sgt. Travis Try, team two non-commissioned-officer-in-charge for the 415<sup>th</sup>.

Try continued, "All of the KFOR soldiers involved in the sports day activities used their limited off-duty time to plan the event and gather the materials needed for the game. Many

of the soldiers used their own money to purchase required materials that were not available through supply channels.

"I think everyone involved in the event would agree that all of their hard work paid off when they saw the joy they brought to all of the children."

As the afternoon and energy of all faded, an awards ceremony was held to recognize all the children. Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck Jr., commander of Multi-National Brigade (East), was one of the presenters of medals donated by Camp Bondsteel's Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Each young medal

recipient appeared as proud as any Olympic medalist has ever been. The smiles and handshakes of the presenters reassured each child of their innate value.

According to Neverson, the ultimate goal of the youth camp was to begin the process of reconciliation between all the communities involved in the returns process. The camp also provided classes in drug, traffic, ecological awareness and mine safety. It was a means to bring the KPS closer to the youth of the municipalities and to inform the youth of the vital role the police play within the community.

"Children are definitely the future of Kosovo. Every time I look at them, smiling and playing together in a multi-ethnic environment, I realize that Kosovo is not a completely prejudiced place after all," said Spc. Jonathan Anderstrom, civil affairs specialist and Serbian linguist for the 415<sup>th</sup>. "There is a hope and a bright light at the end of the tunnel, and that light comes from the children that we encounter every day."

The day started out gloomy with thick clouds, but if the joyful smiles and willing cooperation between KFOR, KPS and the children of Kosovo's several ethnic groups were any indication, the future of Kosovo has a bright and peaceful sunrise peeking over the horizon.



**Haxhi Dulla, an interpreter  
for the Polish Ukrainian  
Battalion, celebrates with  
his team after winning the  
tug-of-war during sports  
day Aug 27.**



# The Swiss Coy Challenge



**Above:** "Team Scouts" of HHC 1-111th Infantry finish the 300 meter litter carry Aug. 31 during the day-long Swiss Coy Challenge held in and around Camp Casablanca.

**Right:** Scout, Spc. Justin Pashley of 1-111th Infantry's "Team Scouts" makes his way across the final obstacle of the Swiss Coy Challenge. The wire he hangs from was stretched across Camp Casablanca's swimming pool.



**Above:** Spc. Britton Battenfelder, 1-111th Infantry scout, shoots the Swiss Assault Rifle 90 Aug. 31.

**Right:** The weary soldiers of U.S. Army team, "Team Scouts" take a well deserved break. The difficulty of the Swiss Coy Challenge can easily be seen in the eyes of Spc. Britton Battenfelder (middle, front).

**Story and photos by Sgt. Nathaniel L. Nelson**

CAMP CASABLANCA, Kosovo – With the sun peaking over the mountaintops in the area surrounding Camp Casablanca, U.S. soldiers began an event aimed at fostering teamwork and building KFOR unity Aug. 31.

An American team from Camp Bondsteel's 640<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion and one comprised of soldiers from Camp Monteith's HHC, 1-111<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Scout Platoon headed out on a 30-kilometer road march winding through







**Above: Sgt. John McLachlan negotiates a 50-meter low crawl obstacle during the Swiss Coy Challenge Aug. 31.**



**Above: Spc. Jeffrey Jamison begins his decent from the 4th floor of a vacant building during the Swiss Coy Challenge held Aug. 31.**

Camp Casablanca's outlying villages at the inaugural Swiss Coy Challenge.

"I'll be cursing tomorrow when I can't move, but I am glad I did it," said Spc. Jeffrey Jamison, a member of the scout team and a Norristown, Pa., native.

The challenge consisted of a 30-kilometer road march, combined with 12 stations, where each four-soldier team's solidarity and soldier skills were tested. At each checkpoint, a task was given for each team to complete for points. Points varied between each event. Tasks included shooting two rounds with the Swiss Assault Rifle 90, a balance beam, a rappel from the fourth floor of a vacant building, a 300-meter litter carry, mine detection and identification, a wired low-crawl obstacle, and a wire cable stretched across the Camp Casablanca swimming pool to name a few.

The toughest event, according to Jamison, was the cable across the pool. The soldiers, already tired from the march and other events, had to traverse the thin cable hung corner to corner across the pool for the final event.

"It was the last thing and you're hurting; it was definitely the toughest," Jamison said.

Following the event, soldiers were fed a Swiss meal and finishers were congratulated. An awards ceremony followed, where the top Swiss team and top three competitors were given trophies and medals. The first place team

**Below: American team, the "Ace Holes" pull a 14 ton Swiss "Piranha" during the Swiss Coy Challenge Aug. 31.**



overall was a multi-national team consisting of Italian, German, Bulgarian, and Argentinean soldiers.

"We knew it would be tough; we just wanted to do every event and finish," said Sgt. John McLachlan, team leader for "Team Scouts."

Fifty-seven teams representing 16 nations competed in the challenge.



# Soldiers Hone Their



Candidates for the Expert Field Medical Badge move a "casualty" away from a downed Blackhawk helicopter during the mass casualty exercise Sept. 4.



Candidates for the Expert Field Medical Badge show air ties after they pop smoke to show air ties during the mass casualty exercise Sept. 4.

## Story and photos by Sgt. Neil K. Simmons

Mass casualties, the reality Army medical personnel hope doesn't happen, but must always be prepared for. From this need came the mass casualty exercise.



Chief Warrant Officer Matthew Stewart treats a "casualty" with an abdominal wound during the mass casualty exercise Sept. 4.

**"Integrated training like this is high value because it stresses the entire system."**

**Maj. Eric Richardson**

The Sept. 4 mass cal exercise on Camp Bondsteel tested Task Force Medical Falcon's response time to medical emergencies and the abilities of Expert Field Medical Badge candidates.

"Integrated training like this is high value because it stresses the entire system," said Maj. Eric Richardson, Operations Officer for Task Force Medical Falcon who helped organize the exercise. Soldiers from several units had to work together to be successful.

1st Lt. Richard Emler, physician assistant with Task Force Medical Falcon, Chief Warrant Officer Matthew Stewart, a medical-surgical nurse with the 24<sup>th</sup> Medical Company Air Ambulance, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class David Keppler, Health Care Specialist and practical nurse with TFMF, Staff Sgt. Michael Price, HCS with TF Paxton, Sgt. Reginald Green, HCS with TFMF, and Sgt. Caleb Farrell, HCS with TF Associators were the EFMB candidates who had to respond to a downed UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter. Upon arriving at the crash site, the soldiers had to treat and triage the casualties and call for air and ground ambulances using a nine-line medevac request. When the ambulances



# Life Saving Skills



al Badge continue to monitor "casual-  
ambulance helicopters their position  
pt. 4.



Sgt. Reginald Green reassures a "casualty" while helping treat  
another soldier during the mass casualty exercise Sept. 4.



*Left: "Casualties" from  
the mass casualty  
exercise arrive at the  
Camp Bondsteel Army  
Hospital Sept. 4.*

*Below: Doctors and  
nurses with Task Force  
Med Falcon examine a  
"casualty" brought to  
the Camp Bondsteel  
Army Hospital during  
the mass casualty  
exercise Sept. 4.*

arrived, they loaded the worst of the casualties on the helicopter and had the others moved by ground to the Camp Bondsteel Army Hospital.

Each step was carefully evaluated by Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Richard Acuna, Intensive Care Unit/ Intermediate Care Ward non-commissioned officer in charge with TFMF, and other TFMF personnel.

At the hospital, the casualties were helped or carried on litters inside, where doctors checked their condition and directed them to the appropriate areas. Following examinations by medical staff the exercise ended and after action reviews were conducted.





# Finance Battalion Supports Local School, Playground

Story and photos by  
Sgt. Heidi Schaap

FERIZAJ, Kosovo - The soldiers of the 628<sup>th</sup> Finance Battalion understand the future of Kosovo begins with its youngest citizens.

That's why, 18 months after a playground fund-raising project began at a finance command in Germany, Camp Bondsteel's finance soldiers were eager to finally attend the dedication ceremony at Ardhmeria Jone, "Our Future" kindergarten and daycare here Sept. 8.

"This project is unique because the funds were completely raised by finance soldiers' donations," said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jeffrey Pollack, 628<sup>th</sup> commander. "No Army dollars were used."

Pollack said the school was identified as needing new equipment as far back as KFOR rotation 2A, and various military and non-governmental organizations considered the project. In the end, however, it was the ambition of finance soldiers that made it happen.

"It's incredible what a little effort



From left to right: Pfc. Dorothy Boyer, Spc. Daniel Bretz, Pfc. Candace Heishman, Cpl. Desiree Kohler, Sgt. Andrew Sohn, Principal Vezire Kryeziu, Interpreter Shtipe Qerkini, and 1st Lt. Jeffrey Pollack stand by some of the new playground equipment that their donations provided to the Ardhmeria Jone Daycare and school.

1st Lt. Jeffrey Pollack and Spc. Amanda Lopez try out the newly constructed playground equipment at Ardhmeria Jone kindergarten and daycare.



will do to make kids happy," said Sgt. Andrew Sohn, chief of military pay for the 628<sup>th</sup>. "From what I've heard, this (new playground) is a great improvement."

The new equipment – slides, swings, teeter-totters and merry-go-rounds – painted in fresh, bright colors, was swarmed by excited children on dedication day.

"Not only me, but also the children and the staff at the school are extremely happy for the playground," said Ardhmeria Jone School's Principal Vezire Kryeziu. "Without the help of KFOR – especially this finance unit – we never could have done this job."

"It's not the first time they have done a project for us," Kryeziu went on to explain. "They've completed many others, like the gate, the fence, the heaters, and a lot of other stuff."

This was not the first project the





**Pfc. Candace Heishman, a 628th Finance Battalion reserve military pay clerk, sits with a student at the Ardhmeria Jone school.**

group has completed for the school, and as far as Pollack is concerned, it is also not the last: He said three more projects were in the planning phase, including a dental clinic, a medical and civilian assistance project and a toy drive.

"(These kinds of projects) aren't really our mission," Pollack explained, "but as ambassadors of the U.S. and the Army, we want to help this next generation of Kosovars understand our generosity."

Pfc. Dorothy Boyer, a 628th cashier, said the project is successful if it helps the children learn to come together.

"I see true friendship and innocence in these children," Boyer said. "The future begins when you're very young, and the influence you have on the young stays with them for the rest of their lives."

Pollack and his soldiers all agreed that the project was successful, but Processing Clerk Spc. Amanda Lopez' assessment of the day was simply and aptly stated:

"I think we made a lot of kids very, very happy."

## **HHC** **From Page 11**

said, "specifically with the cultural exchange. Our goal is to affect the students with a positive image of American values and tolerance for other cultures, so they are more accepting of the others around them."

There was anything but a shortage of curiosity in the classroom as hand after hand anxiously rose to be called upon.

**"We accomplished sharing some words...they've all got questions about what's going on in the world these days. I think we laid a foundation today for future lessons."**

**1st Lt. Richard Allen Weber Jr.**

"We accomplished sharing some words in English," 1st Lt. Richard Allen Weber Jr., HHC executive officer, explained, "But it really turned into more of a multi-cultural question and answer ceremony on things about America. They're all curious, and they've all got questions about what's going on in the world these days. I think we laid a foundation today for future lessons."

Hahn was able to bring up many multi-cultural messages when answering the questions. In one



**Capt. Garry L. Hahn carries boxes of needed clothing donations to Ramadan Rexhepi.**

such instance, Hahn pointed to each soldier, one by one, and stated his name and the country of his ancestry. It made a profound statement to both the soldiers and the students.

Duffy explained, "When the commander was trying to express how the United States is a merge of lots of different cultures, I think that was pretty important to express to the children."

When the last question was answered, Hahn requested each student to stand up and say, in English, their name and what they would like to be when they grow up.

HHC soldiers are confident their regular presence at the school is making an impact on the children of Ramadan Rexhepi.

"This is making a big impact on them," Torres stated. "It's like having a Big Brother's program. You feel better because you know there's some professional guy who is looking at you and the kind of job you're doing."

The influences HHC soldiers are having on Ramadan Rexhepi may not only touch the students they are interacting with, but quite possibly the future of Kosovo.

Duffy explained, "The children are the leaders of the future, and I think if we can get to them young and teach them a little compassion for each other, maybe a little more acceptance of their differences, they can grow up to have a little bit more peace."

Torres added, "By them learning the way things are really supposed to be, I think that will affect tomorrow's leaders. We're going to make a big impact by doing this. I think tomorrow's leaders are going to be a little different."

# Soul Food: *A message from the Chaplain:*



Chaplain (Maj.) Gary Taylor

By Chaplain (Maj.) Gary Taylor

Do you remember those country briefings before we left Fort Stewart about Kosovo? Do you remember the argument between the Serbs and the Albanians as to who “really owns” Kosovo? If so, you will recollect that the Albanians claim that they were here long before the Serbs. The Serbs moved in during the 7<sup>th</sup> century and eventually wound up controlling the whole of the Balkans in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century before the Turks took over the region. The Albanians claim to have descended from the “Illyrian tribes” which occupied the Balkan Peninsula at the time of the Roman Empire back to the first century and before.

Now we skip back from today to that same time first century period in the Roman Empire. A young Jewish religious leader in Jerusalem begins persecuting the newly formed Christian Church. On his way to Damascus he discovers Jesus Christ as the Jewish Messiah through a direct encounter with Him. Instead of persecuting the church, he becomes a church planter throughout present day Turkey.

About 8 years before his death in Rome, he writes a

letter to the church there telling them of his plans to come see them. At the end of this letter, he writes a summary of his travels in these words: “... so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.” (Romans 15:19). By 58 AD, Paul had preached the Gospel through Greece, Macedonia, and as far as Illyricum. We are located in Kosovo – the heart of Illyricum territory. Paul preached here having “fully preached the gospel of Christ!” 2000 years ago, Paul may have walked across Camp Bondsteel! Who knows!

**“Come over to Macedonia and help us.”**

**Acts 16:9**

How did he get here? Well, one night while preaching in the northwest corner of modern day Turkey at Troas on the Aegean Sea, he had a dream. He saw a man from Macedonia (now there’s a familiar name around here!) saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” (Acts 16:9). With that vision, Paul immediately decided to leave Turkey, cross the Aegean Sea, and make a beeline for the most prominent city in that part of Macedonia – Philippi. He then traveled west to Thessalonica. And so the Gospel was first preached in Europe. Ultimately, Paul followed the coast down through Thessalonica and Berea, and on into Greece to Athens and Corinth. And ultimately, as far as Illyricum – Kosovo and the surrounding Balkan region!!

**“1950 years later, here we are – serving our country and ‘living in the shadow of St. Paul.’”**

**Chaplain (Maj.) Gary Taylor**

1950 years later, here we are – serving our country and “living in the shadow of St. Paul.” Over 200 of us are taking the opportunity as part of our education here to study the life and travels of this remarkable man. Then we will have the opportunity to step back into time and walk in the same places where Paul most likely walked in Philippi.

When I moved to the west coast for graduate school, I thought it humorous when they talked about “old things” that dated back 100 years. After all, I lived within an hour of the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. Almost 400 years ago the Pilgrims landed just 5 hours northeast of Philadelphia at Plymouth Rock. But even 400 years pales in comparison to the monasteries in this region dating back to the 1300s and sites we will see in Philippi going back to the Roman Empire 2000 years ago.

Paul’s missionary journeys through this region



# Living in the Shadow of St. Paul



**“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us ... for the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”**

**Romans 5:8; 6:23**

changed the face of the Roman Empire. The chaplains hope that the spiritual ministry we offer to our troops here in Kosovo might have just a fraction of the impact of the teachings of the Apostle Paul – not to establish an organized religion – that has always been a problem – but to help others establish a personal relationship with the almighty and living God.

Talk to a chaplain or stop by one of our worship services. And we hope you will be one of the fortunate soldiers who is able to walk in the steps of Paul on your spiritual journey. “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us ... for the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Words of Paul in Romans 5:8; 6:23)

## Chapel Services and Times

### Camp Bondsteel North

#### **Sunday**

0800 Liturgical Protestant  
0930 Roman Catholic Mass  
1100 Contemp. Protestant  
1400 Gospel

#### **Tuesday**

1200 Roman Catholic Mass

#### **Wednesday**

1900 Bible Study  
2030 Gospel Choir Practice

#### **Thursday**

1900 Roman Catholic Mass

#### **Friday**

1900 Prayer and Bible Studies

#### **Saturday**

1200 Praise Team Practice  
1900 Gospel choir

### Camp Bondsteel South

#### **Sunday**

0800 Roman Catholic Mass  
0930 Non-denominational Christian

1300 Latter Day Saints

1930 Non-denominational Christian

#### **Monday**

1200 Roman Catholic Mass

#### **Saturday**

1930 Roman Catholic Mass

### Camp Monteith

#### **Sunday**

0900 Bible Study  
1000 Collective Protestant  
1200 Latter Day Saints  
1700 Contemporary Praise and Worship  
1900 Roman Catholic Mass

#### **Tuesday**

1900 “Building a Relationship Foundation” study

#### **Friday**

1300 Muslim Service  
(Chapel Annex)

## PA Trash Hauler Wins Nationals

By Ad Crable  
Lancaster New Era, Sept. 15, 2003

There are national driving competitions for bus drivers, runway painters and snow plowers. And gravediggers — clean, casket-shaped holes punched into the ground with backhoes. Trash haulers also have drive-offs, and Joe Frymeyer of Lancaster is one of the best in the business.

The 23-year-old proved it recently in the parking lot of a speedway outside Albuquerque, N.M., proud host of the Solid Waste Association of North America's 15th annual International Heavy Equipment Road-e-o.

There, with about 150 cheering fans in the stands, Frymeyer navigated his big rig through a serpentine obstacle course of barrels only inches wider than his truck.

He shifted into reverse, and using only side and rear mirrors, backed the 16-wheeler to within an inch of a fictitious loading dock.

"It was tough. You weren't allowed to stick your head out the windows. The windows were tinted and the mirrors were loose and vibrated," recalls Frymeyer.

A driver for the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority, Frymeyer hauls a truck with up to 37,000 pounds of waste between the authority's trash-transfer station on Harrisburg Avenue and the county incinerator in Conoy Township or Frey Farm Landfill in Manor Township.

He threaded the needle by driving the nine wheels on one side of the rig through cones positioned only 4 inches wider than the tires.

Trash-truck groupies in the stands got into it, cheering on their favorites and groaning when a truck shaved a traffic cone and lost valuable points.

When the dust cleared in New Mexico, Frymeyer had outmaneuvered his fellow truckers to win the transfer-trailer division.

For his feat in New Mexico, Frymeyer was given a belt buckle. Then last Friday, he went before local authority board members and was presented with a certificate.

The winner himself says the competition wasn't as much pressure as the real stuff he encounters in Lancaster County. Like the hard turn he has to make at a tight intersection in Columbia, where motorists often don't stop behind the white line that is supposed to keep them out of the turning radius.

## Hispanics largest U.S. minority group

By Haya El Nasser  
USA TODAY, September 11, 2003

WASHINGTON — Hispanics outnumber blacks as the largest minority group in the USA for the first time since the government began counting the nation's population more than two centuries ago.

There are 38.8 million Hispanics in the USA, according to the latest Census Bureau estimates released Wednesday. The figures, as of July 1, show a 9.8% increase since the Census was taken in April 2000.

How they're changing America:

The steady surge of Hispanics has changed the fabric of life in the United States, from food on grocery shelves, movies and the bedsheets children sleep on to the rosters of professional sports teams:

- Nickelodeon's bilingual Dora the Explorer is the No. 2 pre-school show on commercial TV, leading Anglo as well as Hispanic tykes to sleep on Dora sheets that say Buenos noches. A fraction of the audience for George Lopez, one of ABC's top comedies last season, is Hispanic. And Fox, already the top major network among Hispanics, is adding two Hispanic family comedies this fall.

- The Latin explosion in mainstream pop music is evident in the success of Ricky Martin and Marc Anthony, who began their careers as Spanish-language singers. Colombian singer-songwriter Shakira and Jennifer Lopez are multi-platinum sellers.

- Time Inc. launched People en Espanol in 1997. Circulation has since doubled to 414,000 to make it the top-selling Spanish-language magazine in the USA.

- Hispanics are starring in sports they had never been associated with before. The National Hockey League has its first Hispanic, Scott Gomez of Alaska, rookie of the year three years ago. Last year, speedskaters Derek Parra and Jennifer Rodriguez became the first Hispanics to win Winter Olympic medals. Parra is Mexican-American, and Rodriguez is Cuban-American.

Hispanics are also the largest minority in Major League Baseball. Alex Rodriguez, a Dominican-American born in New York and raised in Miami, is the game's highest paid player at \$25 million a year. Arturo Moreno became the first Hispanic owner of a team when he recently bought the Anaheim Angels. Moreno has said he doesn't want to be thought of as a minority owner. When asked a question in Spanish at a news conference, the fourth-generation American answered in English. "The first thing is I'm an American," he said. "I'm proud to be a Mexican-American, but as far as being the first minority, I think most of us are immigrants from some place."



# Soldier on the Street

With cold weather on its way, how do you plan to spend your free time?



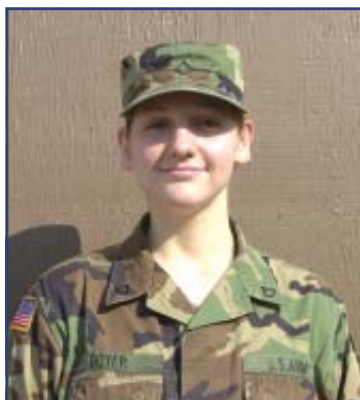
Tommie Shaw

**Rank:** Spc.  
**Unit:** 175th MP Co.  
**Job:** Armorer and Mechanic  
**Hometown:** St. Louis, Mo.  
**Quote:** "(I) will be participating in the Christmas basketball tournament. We will avenge our loss. 'Capt. Crowder will be bringing the trophy home.'"



Laurie Trupp

**Rank:** Spc.  
**Unit:** 628th Finance Detachment  
**Job:** Finance Specialist  
**Hometown:** Reading, Pa.  
**Quote:** "My favorite activity at Camp Monteith is watching TV or DVDs."



Dorothy Boyer

**Rank:** Pfc.  
**Unit:** 628th Finance Battalion  
**Job:** Cashier  
**Hometown:** Lebanon County, Pa.  
**Quote:** "Just go to the gym and start reading again."



Wade Hugendubler

**Rank:** Staff Sgt.  
**Unit:** Joint Visitor Bureau  
**Job:** Escort Officer  
**Hometown:** Palmyra, Pa.  
**Quote:** "Do what I do every day, try to take over the world."



Donald Houston

**Rank:** Spc.  
**Unit:** Area Support Team (Monteith)  
**Job:** Unit Supply Specialist  
**Hometown:** Monroe, La.  
**Quote:** "I enjoy working out at the gym or watching DVDs."



Gregory Neverson

**Rank:** Maj.  
**Unit:** 415th Civil Affairs Battalion  
**Job:** Strpce team chief  
**Hometown:** West Orange, N.J.  
**Quote:** "Probably utilize more of the MWR facilities, stick to utilizing the treadmill, and stick to utilizing more of the universal weight lifting systems."



# *Scenes of Kosovo*

Only a little color remains on flowers on Mt. Ljuboten, known to Multi-National Brigade (East) soldiers as "Big Duke," as cold clouds settle in on it's peak. Photo by Sgt. Heidi Schaap.

